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GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS

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A BEVY OF BALTIC BEAUTIES CARRIES ON ESTONIAN TRADITION IN SONG AND COSTUME

These girls, crowned with traditional headdresses and costumed in voluminous-sleeved blouses and wide striped skirts of old Estonia, are choristers who have traveled from northern Estonia to take part in the National Singing Festival at Tallinn. The Estonians are a singing people. For centuries under foreign rule song has been their principal mode of expressing patriotism. A co-operative people, they have organized innumerable singing societies. Every five years the members of these choral clubs meet in the capital and join in their folk songs. The type of costume worn on these occasions reveals the section of the country from which the singer comes. The striking designs on these flaring caps resemble those of Sweden, one of the countries which have ruled the three east Baltic nations now reunited with the U.S.S.R. (Bulletin No. 1).

Baroness Irina Ungern-Sternberg

GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETIN

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

The Geographic School Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers in the United States and its possessions for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (stamps or money order); in Canada, 50 cents. Originally entered as second-class matter January 27, 1922; re-entered as of April 27, 1943, Post Office, Washington, D. C., under Act of March 3, 1879. Copyright, 1944, by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C. International copyright secured. All rights reserved. Quedan reservados todos los derechos.

Three Baltic States Resume Russian Status

AS RUSSIAN forces pushed against Memel, they were both launching an attack against Germany's East Prussia and cleaning up the three Baltic nations, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Memel, the only seaport of any importance in Lithuania, was taken over without bloodshed by the Nazis in 1939, in their first aggressive step in the direction of the Soviet Union.

Later, in April, 1940, the Germans invaded Denmark and Norway. Promptly thereafter, in June, 1940, the U.S.S.R. began political maneuvers that brought the three Baltic nations into the Soviet Union in August. This ended 22 years of independence for the three small states. They became the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Each of the constituent states of the Soviet Union retains its own Central Executive Committee and Council of People's Commissars, and, since early this year, has been responsible to some extent for its own defense and foreign policy.

The Baltic states are of great economic value because their ports are the focal points of railways serving large areas in the U.S.S.R., and because the U.S.S.R. has only one other Baltic port, Leningrad. Tallinn (Reval) in Estonia, Riga in Latvia (illustration, next page), and Memel in Lithuania's disputed territory have in the past been important as Baltic outlets for Russian trade. Their combined coastline gives the U.S.S.R. an additional 2,000 miles of Baltic Sea frontage.

Peasants Barred from Land Ownership until 1805

The establishment of independent governments in Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia (illustration, cover) after World War I followed seven centuries of German, Swedish, and Russian rule. Prior to 1918, they had been part of the Russian Empire for 200 years.

The Baltic states were often known as the German Provinces during that era, in spite of rule by Russia. The German population, even prior to its partial evacuation from the three nations in 1939, had never been large. An estimated 70,000 or 80,000 German-speaking people were ordered repatriated at that time. Yet German influence dominated certain phases of life.

This domination resulted from German ownership of the bulk of the wealth of the provinces. Germans had long monopolized trade and industry, and also held the land in vast estates upon which the natives worked. German barons and Russian landowners controlled 60 per cent of the farms. Not until 1805 had the peasants been permitted to own land.

German Control Began 1200 A.D.

German influence had entered these Baltic provinces in 1200 A.D., when twenty-three ships brought missionaries, traders, and the armed Teutonic Knights. The territory remained part of the estates of the Teutonic Knights until 1561. Then it was under Swedish domination until Russian control began in 1721.

Control by Germans before World War I had been out of proportion to their numbers. In Estonia, for example, only 16,000 residents were Germans out of a total population of 1,250,000 in an area about half the size of Indiana. Latvia, with an area equal to that of West Virginia, had a population of 1,950,000, of which only 62,000 were Germans.

For more than a year after the conclusion of the first World War, the fate

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C. Anders and Co.

THESE MOUNTAINS MADE THESE DOGS MAN'S BEST-PUBLICIZED BEST FRIEND

This St. Bernard dog has time to relax on the slopes above the Great St. Bernard Pass, with a boy companion and one of the monks from the Hospice. He has few duties now that the old trail over the pass has been widened to a highway and the Simplon and St. Gotthard railway tunnels have been bored through the mountains to the east. The dogs and their masters of the St. Bernard Hospice (right background) still carry on their rescue work, but most of the men whose lives they save are smugglers, army deserters, or political refugees who dare not travel by rail. Travelers on legitimate business are not likely to attempt the pass on foot. Before the war the traditional "Truce of the Alps" was observed on Christmas Eve. The police relaxed their vigilance, and joined the monks at midnight mass, while outside in the deep snow the outlaws, aware of the truce, made their way undisturbed across the border between Italy and Switzerland over mountain passes that helped shape Europe's history (Bulletin No. 4).

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Battered Ryukyu Islands at Japan's Doorstep

WHEN planes from aircraft carriers of the U. S. Navy attacked the Ryukyu Islands, they were flying in Japan's front yard, for the northernmost island of the Ryukyu chain is only 18 miles from Japan proper. The northernmost, Tane ga Shima, is just across the Osumi Kaikyo (Van Diemen Strait) from Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan's main islands.

The Ryukyu group includes about 90 islands and islets strung across the 700-mile gap between Taiwan (Formosa) and Kyushu. The chain is also called Nansei and Liuchiu (map, next page).

The total area of all the islands is less than that of Rhode Island. Their combined population before the war was approximately 600,000.

Okinawa and Amami Are Largest

The Ryukyu chain is composed of several knots of islands—Sakishima Gunto, Okinawa Gunto, Amami Gunto, the Tokara Retto, and Osumi Gunto, festooned in that order from southwest to northeast.

The largest island of the chain is Okinawa, lying near the midpoint of the arc. It is 56 miles long and from two to 14 miles wide. Shuri, in southern Okinawa, is the capital of the Ryukyus. The city, which had a peacetime population of 60,000, occupies a rocky elevation some 400 feet high, three miles inland from Naha, the principal port. Shuri and Naha are the only cities of the island chain. The Japanese have built an airfield outside Naha.

The next-largest island is Amami O Shima, farther north, which is credited with having two airfields.

Some of the many mountains in the islands are active volcanoes. Eruptions have created several new islands within the past decade. Coral reefs abound in waters off the southern islands. Strong ocean winds blow over the Ryukyus, and the rainfall is very heavy. Bamboo, the banyan tree, and several kinds of oak and pine grow there, but, in general, wood is scarce.

Hairpins Important in "Forgotten Kingdom"

The Ryukyu islanders went their way unmolested for centuries, buying a status of semi-independence by paying tribute both to the Chinese, who conquered them in 1372, and to the Japanese, who invaded the islands in 1609. In that era they gained the title of Forgotten Kingdom. Dangerous waters and the absence of good harbors contributed to their isolation. In 1876, however, the islands were placed under the rule of the Japanese Home Office, and tribute to China stopped.

The people of the islands are related to the Japanese in race and speech. Their dress and diet resemble those of the Japanese, except for the abundant use of sweet potatoes in the Ryukyus. Islanders obtained the sweet potato from China, so they call it the Chinese potato. From the islands it was taken to Japan, where it is known as the Ryukyu potato.

Nowhere did hairpins become more important than in the Ryukyu Islands. Two large gold hairpins stuck through the topknot of a man have served as the badge of nobility, and silver pins were a sign of the gentry. Commoners could wear only brass, pewter, or wooden hairpins.

Peasants in the country build houses of reed with thatched roofs. Towns on the islands consist mostly of one-story stone houses having small rooms with dirt

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of Russia's Baltic Provinces was uncertain. Great Britain early acknowledged them as independent states. It was largely through the aid of British ships and soldiers, together with Finnish troops, that Bolshevist troops were forced back and independent governments set up.

Russia gave up the Baltic Provinces under the terms of the treaty of Brest-Litovsk, March, 1918, but Estonia and Latvia were later attacked by the Bolshevist forces and final peace with Russia was not concluded until early in 1920.

Meanwhile, German troops remaining there overthrew the new regime in Latvia, but they were driven out in June and July, 1919.

Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have a combined area of little more than 60,000 square miles, or considerably less than one per cent of the total area of the U.S.S.R. The population of the three states, before the people were slaughtered and scattered by war, amounted to less than 6,000,000. This would be between three and four per cent of the total population of the U.S.S.R.

Note: The Baltic States, with boundaries as of September 1, 1939, are shown on the National Geographic Society's Map of Europe and the Near East. A price list of maps may be obtained from the headquarters of the Society in Washington 6, D. C.

For additional information on the Baltic States, see "Estonia: At Russia's Baltic Gate," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for December, 1939*; and "Latvia, Home of the Letts," October, 1924. *(Issues marked with an asterisk are included in a special list of Magazines available in lots of 10 for $1 to teachers and librarians.)*

See also the following GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS: "Estonia, Fair Land of Potatoes and Stone," February 28, 1944; "German Exodus from Baltic States Is Another of War's Migrations," November 6, 1939; and "Three East Baltic Nations under Soviet Union's Wing," October 23, 1939.

Bulletin No. 1, October 30, 1944.

Carl Schneider

THOUGH LONG RUSSIAN-RULED, LATVIA HAD A GERMAN-BUILT WHITE HOUSE

The long-standing German influence in the three small states on the Baltic's east shores is typified by the old castle in Riga, which served as the residence of Latvia's president before the outbreak of war. The 600-year-old structure was started in 1330 by the Teutonic Knights, German conquerors of the land, and used by them as a fortress and residence. In spite of damage and alterations, it continued in use through centuries of foreign rule under German, Swedish, Lithuanian-Polish, and Russian authority, surviving to serve as a White House when Latvia became a republic in 1918. Elsewhere in the Baltic nations old German structures, traditions, and influence survived to affect the current struggle between Russian and Nazi forces on this Baltic battlefield.

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The Dominican Republic, 100 Years Old, on Island Columbus Found

THE Dominican Republic this year is celebrating the first hundred years of its independence. This is the nation which was long known as Santo Domingo, on the island which Columbus sailed from Cuba to discover in December, 1492.

Among the first of the Latin American republics to take a stand with the United Nations, the country swept out Germans and Italians and saw to it that its soil was free of any threat to the Panama Canal. The country has attracted many refugees, who have been given haven on allotted tracts.

Hispaniola a Double Address

The Spanish-speaking Dominican Republic shares with French-speaking Haiti the island of Hispaniola, between Cuba and Puerto Rico. About matching the combined areas of Vermont and New Hampshire, the Dominican Republic occupies the eastern two-thirds of the island. It has a population of 1,768,000.

The frontier of the two countries, 190 miles from coast to coast, was long a matter of dispute. The line was finally fixed by treaty in 1936.

Rugged mountain ranges partition the land. Natural ups and downs of the country are extreme. Mount Tina, 10,300 feet high, loftiest peak in the West Indies, surpasses the highest point in the eastern United States (Mt. Mitchell) by nearly 3,500 feet. Laguna de Enriquilla is 150 feet below sea level.

The climate, which is generally healthful, varies from 90 degrees Fahrenheit on the coast to a degree or two above freezing in the mountains. The rainy season lasts from May through November, and the dry season from December through April. The country's mean temperature is 77 degrees.

A Garden Girt with Trees

The republic's soil is very fertile. About one-fifth of the country is cultivated; the rest is forested, chiefly with pine and mahogany. Growing and processing sugar cane is the biggest industry. Chocolate is second in export value. Other important exports are coffee, tobacco, corn, and molasses.

Side by side on the same acreage cacao trees grow with corn. Bananas, coffee, and guavas thrive on the same ground. Rice growing is encouraged.

Mineral wealth is promising. Among known deposits are gold, copper, iron, oil, silver, platinum, and rock salt.

Railroad, highway, telephone, and telegraph links are giving the people a new sense of national unity. A highway from the Dominican capital to the capital of Haiti has made it possible to drive across the island in 9 hours.

Along with its high agricultural yields the Dominican Republic has produced a bumper crop of history. It gave Columbus a foothold for further exploration. From the walled city of Santo Domingo (the original name of the capital), Cortés, Pizarro, and Ponce de Leon set sail, conquest bound. And from there treasure fleets headed for Spain, laden with gold and silver stripped from conquered lands to the west and south.

Invaders from Haiti Delayed Independence

As Spain's empire expanded and attention shifted from the Caribbean islands to sources of wealth on mainland Central and South America, the island of Hispaniola received less protection from the mother country. It was possible for England's Sir Francis Drake to raid the island's capital city in 1586.

France, after occupying Haiti, got Santo Domingo by cession in 1795. Thirteen years later, Dominicans, aided by the British, ousted the French and returned to the rule of Spain. The Dominicans declared their independence from Spain in 1821, but an invading army from the west subjected them to Haitian rule.

In 1844 the Dominicans made their next attempt at independence, drove out the Haitians, and founded a republic. Religious tolerance, public school education, and votes for women are provided for.

Contrast with the past is sharpest in Ciudad Trujillo—new name for the old capital.

Bulletin No. 3, October 30, 1944.

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floors. Stone walls surround the houses and confine the narrow streets or winding lanes. It has been the practice to bury the dead not in cemeteries but on the family premises.

The principal activity of the islands is sugar production, and sugar is the chief export. In addition to sugar and sweet potatoes, the islanders raise rice, tobacco, pineapples, bananas, large radishes, Indian corn, and other cereals. Much tea is drunk in the Ryukyus, but it will not grow there. Other exports are sulphur and phosphates, silk, and red lacquer work.

Note: The Ryukyu (or Nansei) Islands may be found on the Society's new Map of Southeast Asia, which is a supplement to the October, 1944, issue of the *Magazine*. A large-scale inset of the group is included.

For further information on the Japanese Empire, see "Japan and the Pacific," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for April, 1944; "Unknown Japan," August, 1942*; and "Hidden Key to the Pacific," June, 1942*; and these GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS: "Japanese Empire Centered on Map for Geographic," April 3, 1944; and "Japan's Condemned Empire 50 Years in the Making," January 3, 1944.

Bulletin No. 2, October 30, 1944.

THE RYUKYU ISLANDS' NAME REFLECTS THE HISTORY OF THEIR CONQUEST

Perhaps to reproduce the sound of the natives' name for the islands, Chinese conquerors gave the name of Liukiu (Liuchiu or Loochoo) to the string of islands stretching from Taiwan to Japan. The two Chinese characters for Liukiu mean "Jewel Orb." The Japanese, taking over in 1876, were unable to pronounce the "l" sound and rendered the name as Ryukyu. The alternate name, Nansei Islands, means "Southwestern Islands" in Chinese. These islands lie between the coast of China and American forces at their hard-won bases in Micronesia and Melanesia. The Ryukyu group includes 36 sizable islands and 53 islets, as well as innumerable rocks and coral reefs.

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Mountain Passes Have Channeled Europe's History

IN THE great conflict surging over the face of Europe, headlines are being made in mountain passes that have channeled historic tides of war and migration. The push of Allied armies toward Germany in the vicinity of the Belfort Gap has brought to the front pages the name of this break between the Vosges and the Jura Mountains. Other passes in World War II headlines are the Brenner Pass in the Alps, the Tatar Pass in the Carpathians, the Moravian Gate in Czechoslovakia, and Thermopylae in Greece. Add the Roncesvalles Pass in the Pyrenees, and such west Alpine gaps as the Great and Little St. Bernard, and you have a short gazetteer recalling events that have changed the course of life in Europe.

Brenner Pass Long Fought Over

The Belfort Gap commands a historic route between France and Germany. It is 35 miles west of the meeting point of Germany, Switzerland, and France.

The Brenner Pass links Austria and Italy. It is in territory long and bitterly contested between the two countries. Italy won in 1919, when its frontier was pushed northward to this point in accordance with World War settlements.

For more than 2,000 years the Brenner Pass has been a channel for invasion, commerce, and culture, and often a battleground. Roman legions tramped over the road they built through it. Over it poured barbarian hordes.

In 1934, Italian troops at the Brenner Pass temporarily halted Hitler's plans when Mussolini blocked early Nazi expansion in Austria. When the two dictators combined interests, the pass became their much-publicized meeting place. It has served the Germans as a direct route for transporting men and supplies into Italy. Allied bombers have often attacked its rail and highway bridges.

Golden Horde Invaded Europe through Tatar Pass

Another defile in today's war news is the Tatar Pass. This break in the Carpathians, about 20 miles from the east end of the prewar frontier between Poland and Czechoslovakia, was reached by the Red Army in the spring of 1944. For centuries armies have swept across the Pass of the Tatars. Through it in the 13th century the Mongoloid tribes known as Tatars overran Europe from the east. During World War I, Russian troops fought the Central Powers in this pass.

The Moravian Gate, which figured prominently in the negotiations that preceded World War II, is situated in the turbulent corner of Europe where Germany, Poland, and Czechoslovakia meet. A break between the Sudeten Mountains on the west and the Carpathians on the east, the Moravian pass is less than 1,000 feet high. It came under German control after the 1938 Munich agreement. From earliest times it carried traffic between the Baltic and the Mediterranean.

The Pass of Thermopylae has made history in invasions of Greece from the pre-Christian era to the German attack in 1941. Not a mountain break but a narrow way between overhanging cliffs and the sea, this pass lies on the east coast of Greece. When the army of the Spartan King Leonidas held it against the vastly greater forces of the Persians in 480 B.C., the pass was less than 200 feet wide. Since then silt has extended it over a mile. More than 24 centuries after the heroic stand of the Greek defenders, Thermopylae was the scene of another unequal struggle. In World War II, as in the earlier battle, the enemy was unable to take the pass by assault. Instead the Germans went around it.

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Largest and most important city of the republic, with a population of about 71,000, it lives in the lengthening shadow of Columbus. In its cathedral the tomb of the Great Navigator is pointed out. Columbus Palace, built in 1510, still survives. A heroic statue of Columbus stands in Columbus Square.

Note: The Dominican Republic is shown on the Society's Map of Mexico, Central America, and the West Indies. Railways and main highways are traced, and historic events in the history of the island of Hispaniola are noted.

For additional information on the Dominican Republic, see "The Land Columbus Loved," and "Dominican Republic, Land of Plenty" (11 natural-color photographs), in the February, 1944, issue of the *National Geographic Magazine*; and "Hispaniola Rediscovered," January, 1931*.

See also these GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS: "Spanish Tradition Marks Dominican Republic," March 22, 1943; and "U. S. Customs Control Ends in the Dominican Republic" (Geo-Graphic Brevity), April 7, 1941.

B. Anthony Stewart

THE MACHETE MAKES A TOUCHDOWN WHEN IT CUTS DOWN A CALABASH

A slash of the butcher-size machete cuts the calabash free from the branch and drops the football-shaped fruit to the ground. The calabash tree, a native of Mexico and Central America, may grow to a height of 20 to 40 feet. The shell of the fruit dries to a woody hardness, and serves as the gourd's big brother for many household purposes such as a water bucket. It even has a limited use for cooking over a fire. Many a lad in the Dominican Republic helps with outdoor farm work, for the nation is principally agricultural.

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Geo-Graphic Brevities

HISTORIC AACHEN ON WELL-WORN ROAD TO GERMANY

A RESORT city since Roman times, a capital for much of western Europe 1,100 years ago, historic Aachen on Germany's northwestern edge was condemned to destruction by Nazi commanders when they refused to surrender to the Allies.

Known to the French as Aix-la-Chapelle, the city is now, and has been for 20 centuries or more, an important door in and out of Germany on the west. It is situated near the point at which the Belgium-Germany border meets the slender finger of Netherlands territory which extends southward. It is 40 miles west of Cologne (Köln) in the heart of Germany's industrial Rhineland, and 25 miles east of Liége, Belgium. From Belgium, highways and railways funnel through Aachen into Germany. It was through this city that part of the Nazi blitzkrieg moved in May, 1940, to invade the Low Countries.

Before the war, with a population of 165,000, Aachen appeared to be a commonplace manufacturing town, turning out cloth, glass, needles, and pins. It was best known to prewar visitors for its many sulphur and hot springs.

The city, however, is rich in history. To the Romans, remains of whose baths are still to be found, it was known as Aquisgrannum, after Apollo Grannis, god of hot springs.

It is probable that Charlemagne was born in Aachen. He made it the capital of his dominions north of the Alps, and there he died in 814. The cathedral in the center of the city was begun by Charlemagne in 796. Under the center dome is a marble slab inscribed "Carlo Magno," which may at one time have covered his burial place. The building, almost wrecked by Norman raiders, was rebuilt in 983.

After Charlemagne about 32 emperors and kings were crowned in Aachen. The city began to decline in the 16th century. It was too near the French frontier to be safe and too remote from the center of Germany to be a convenient capital.

In 1794 Aachen was occupied by the French, and held until 1815. Thereafter it settled down to a quiet existence as a spa, particularly popular with English visitors.

In 1849 Baron Paul von Reuter founded in Aachen the famous news agency which bears his name, moving it shortly after to London.

Note: Aachen is found on the new Map of Germany and Its Approaches, issued as a supplement to the *National Geographic Magazine* for July, 1944.

* * * *

WILD FIG TREE MAY HELP SOLVE RUBBER PROBLEM

A PARASITE from Australia's scrub lands and jungles may contribute to the world's scanty rubber supply if the wild fig tree growing in northwestern Australia can be tapped for its valuable juice. This milky liquid contains appreciable amounts of rubber hydrocarbon—about 8 per cent.

Australia has more than 60 varieties of fig trees growing in the uncultivated regions of the continent. The wild variety, which may be able to augment the world's rubber supply, thrives in the northwest. Almost all these trees begin their lives as parasites. A tiny seed dropped by a bird into a sheltered arm of another tree may germinate and send down to the ground long ropelike roots which wrap

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In the Pyrenees, between France and Spain, passes played a dramatic role when Spanish Loyalists fled to France in 1939, after the Spanish phase of the war. These mountains have few gaps. Those most used are at each end of the range, where railways and highways run. Outstanding, historically, is the Pass of Roncesvalles, toward the western end. There, in 778, the Basques defeated Charlemagne. Later through the Roncesvalles gate came Germanic tribes from the north and Moslem hordes from the south. In the Napoleonic wars French and British troops poured through the pass to bloody battlefields on both sides.

Around northern Italy curves the arc of the Alps, cut by many passes. It is believed that Hannibal marched into Italy from France over the Little St. Bernard. Another route of Roman times is followed by the Corniche Road (illustration, below), between France and Italy. Over Great St. Bernard Pass (illustration, inside cover), used by the Romans, Napoleon crossed into Italy. Before World War II, a traditional "Truce of the Alps" was observed there on Christmas Eve.

Note: The Society's Map of Central Europe and the Mediterranean shows mountain passes and railways and highways leading through them, as well as the modern towns standing near these historic gateways.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, May 15, 1944, "Tatar Pass Recalls Invasion 700 Years Ago," and "Historic Thermopylae No Longer a Narrow Pass," May 12, 1941.

Bulletin No. 4, October 30, 1944.

Maynard Owen Williams

THE RIVIERA'S PASSES PASS AROUND MOUNTAINS INSTEAD OF OVER THEM

For long eras of history people found it easier, for many purposes, to travel by boat than by land along the rugged coast of the northern Mediterranean. Then Monaco on the French Riviera was important for its harbor; Augustus Caesar embarked there. Napoleon gave a boost to land travel by building the Corniche highway which cuts across the flanks of the Maritime Alps where they drop into the Mediterranean. The section known as the Petite Corniche clings to the narrow coastal shelf through Monaco (background) and Monte Carlo (right middle ground). Above the highway on terraces are sunny villas, narrow gardens of flowers, vineyards, and small orchards.

themselves around the trunk of the tree. This uninvited guest grows by choking out the life of its host.

Fig is the popular name of the genus *Ficus* of which there are about 800 varieties. These range from clinging vines to gnarled giants (illustration, below). The wild fig is a native of Asia and Africa. Some species can stand such extremes of climate that they flourish in regions of dry winds, as well as in the moist depths of jungles.

Rubber from trees of the fig family is not an altogether new development. One of the first sources of natural rubber was the India rubber tree—*Ficus elastica*. Even the cultivated fig, grown chiefly for its fruit, drips latex containing natural rubber, but the presence of resinous materials has made it commercially unprofitable.

The Australian fig tree already has many uses. Aborigines make fishing nets from its strong root fibers. Young tender leaves are used for cattle fodder. The leaf of one variety is used as a substitute for sandpaper.

Bulletin No. 5, October 30, 1944.

Wilfred H. Osgood

DOUBLE-DUTY WILD FIG TREE MAY HAVE TRIPLE ROLE

The wild fig tree is useful and versatile. In the glaring sun of central Ethiopia the glossy green leaves on its widespreading branches cast welcome shade for travelers taking time out for rest and refreshment. Its fruit, dry, sour, and much smaller than the cultivated fig, is scorned by man, but the monkeys and birds of Haile Selassie's land consider it an appetizing addition to their menu. And the production of rubber from its milky juice has been considered. This tree is of the variety that stands on its own trunk without a prop. Unlike this independent Ethiopian giant, many wild fig trees begin their careers as parasites on other trees and send to the ground roots which eventually wrap themselves around, and choke, the host tree.

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